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1976/04/12

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 2 APR 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY **AFFAIRS**

SUBJECT: U.S. Security Assistance to the Republic of China: NSSM 212 (C)

- (U) The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and I have reviewed the NSSM 212 study response in light of developments of the past year and recent relevant studies by CIA/DIA and DIA.
- (TS) Although the significant imbalance of forces available to the PRC and ROC is essentially unchanged, both studies cited in your memorandum reflect a lower threat level than NSSM 212. In particular, the December 1975 study concludes that the PRC would be unable to mount a successful non-nuclear invasion of Taiwan much before 1980. Neither study sees much near term likelihood of a major military confrontation between the PRC and the ROC; however, the PRC's advantage will continue to increase as Taiwan faces difficulties in procuring modern equipment.
- The present stability accords with U.S. objectives in the area, and approval of weapons systems sales to the ROC should foster continuation of that condition; however, increases in PRC technological capabilities and potential military activities in the Taiwan Strait area should also be recognized and considered in the weapons system approval process. The intent is not to maintain a quantitative balance, but to maintain a qualitative balance similar to the present PRC-ROC force relationship.
- (TS) The Department of Defense continues to view Option III—Upper Range, Limited ROC Access to New Weapons, as the preferred guideline for providing military equipment to the ROC. That option continues to offer the greatest flexibility in maintaining ROC confidence while not presenting major obstacles to normalization of U.S.-PRC relations. A revised listing of appropriate categories and types of military equipment for sale to the ROC for Options II, III, and IV of NSSM 212 are attached. The revised listings reflect approval of weapons systems over the last year, and changes made appropriate by the recent CIA and DIA threat analyses. In particular, the additions to Option III reflect

Classified by ASD/LSA____ SUDJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE CRDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNCRALED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED 0N31_Dec_86

Sec Def Cont Mr. I-

by H. Soubecs, National Security Counc

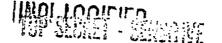


ROC defensive capability improvements which are necessary to maintain the relative qualitative balance of PRC and ROC forces.

- (S) As indicated by footnotes in the attachment, there are several outstanding requests from the Department of Defense for approval of sale of military equipment items to the ROC. Several have been pending decision for more than a year. While the complex nature of the problem which their approval presents is clearly recognized, particularly with regard to overall China policy considerations, the decisions are not made easier by the passage of time. It would be highly desirable to reduce the decision process time from the viewpoints of the impact of extended delay on both the U.S.-ROC relationship and our respective planning and programming functions.
- (TS) As I noted in my 11 February 1975 memorandum, the continued existence of the U.S.-ROC Mutual Defense Treaty and the DoD security responsibilities which devolve therefrom, require that we recognize that any significant limitations of ROC defensive capabilities result in imposition of greater and more rapid response requirements upon U.S. forces. This factor must be given greater consideration in the approval process governing the provision of military equipment to the ROC.

Deputy

Attachments
Revised Options (TS/S)



TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE



OPTION 11 - FREEZING ROC ACCESS TO CURRENT TYPES AND LEVELS

The following is an illustrative list of the kinds of equipment which could be made available to the ROC under Option 11:

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COMMENT

F-5E aircraft

completion of present co-production program of 120 and approval of additional aircraft but only to replace other older aircraft on one-for-one basis.

F-104 aircraft

as replacement for currently held F-104's or other models.

High speed patrol boats

5 authorized; no additional except as replacements; Harpoon mi.siles not provided.

Improved HAWK battalion

already approved; no increase beyond current second battalion approved.

S2E ASW aircraft

sale of 16 approved; no additional except as replacement.

SEA CHAPARRAL Missile

surface ship point air defense; 4 destroyers equipped; 20 missiles purchased; additional purchases pending. Approve only replacement

items.

AIH 9E missile

air-to-air missile; approve only replacement

quantities.

UH-IH helicopter

Co-production of 236 approved; total production of 118 scheduled by end FY 1977; approve

continued production to 236.



OPTION 111 - LIMITED ROC ACCESS TO NEW MEAPONS LOWER RANGE

The following is an illustrative list of the kinds of equipment which could be provided to the ROC under the lower range of Option III:

A. Equipment approved for sale to ROC. Increase levels as indicated.

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COMMENT

F-5E and F-5B aircraft

132 aircraft already approved;
approve additional 80 requested.*

SEA Chaparral Missile

surface ship point air defense; 4 destroyers equipped; 20 missiles purchased; approve to equip surface combatant ships.

AIM 9E air-to-air missile

additional levels as required to support increased F-5E levels.

· High speed patrol boats

up to 5 already approved; would approve up to additional 10.

T-53 engine

Co-production assembly approved; approve gear box modification to adapt to ROC-designed T-CH-1 fixed-wing trainer aircraft.

MK 46 torpedo

for ASW use by surface ships.

Improved HAWK Battalion

two battalions already approved; could approve one additional.

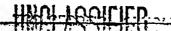
VULCAN air defense artillery

20mm Gatling gun for ROC Army point defense to replace obsolete 40mm AAA; sale of six self-propelled VULCAN guns recently approved; approve additional requests on case-by-case evaluation.

Improved Air Operation Center

Provides semi-automated capability for integration of elements of air defenssystem; improves capability to control increased number of intercepts.

^{*} Awaiting State approval/comment.



TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

B. Equipment not approved for or possessed by ROC. Approve system and levels as indicated.

ITEM

COMMENT

HH-3E helicopter

long-range search and rescue;
approve up to 8.

Improved reconnaissance aircraft

could be F-104, or F-5 with optical and/or side-looking radar for stand-off reconnaissance without overflight; approve up to 8.

HARPOON missile

Surface-launched missile only to counter growing PRC Styx missile craft capability and activity in Taiwan Strait; approve systems A/R to support levels of high speed patrol boats approved.*

TOW missile

Optically tracked wire-guided anti-tank missile for ground or air use (UH-IH helicopter). UH-IH TOW capability would decrease requirement for M-48 tanks requested by ROC, and improve coastal defensive capabilities against Styx missile craft. Levels provided should not impinge ground force mobility provided by UH-IH.

AlM-9J missile

capability upgrade of existing AIM-9E missiles

^{*} Awaiting State approval/comment.

^{**} Awaiting NSC approval.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

UND ACCEPTED THE

ANNEX C:111 (REVISED)

OPTION III - LIMITED ROC ACCESS TO NEW WEAPONS UPPER RANGE

Would include all items of equipment listed in Annex C II (although perhaps in greater numbers) and in addition:

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COMMENT

C-130 transport aircraft to replace current fleet of C-119 transport.

SII-2 helicopters

for ASW and anti-ship missile defense.

ASROC (anti-submarine rocket)

anti-submarine missile launched from surface ships with homing torpedo.

Shipboard fire control systems

to upgrade surface ship air defense capabilities.

Improved SONAR
systems

to improve destroyer ASW capabilities to counter PRC capability to establish blockade of Taiwan and Peng-hu Islands.

Precision guided munitions

early PGM technology to counter PRC maritime threat, such as Styx missile craft; maximum range capability of 10NM.

Radar homing and warning systems

to provide a passive ECM capability for air defense aircraft.

TOP SEALEFF VERSIONE

WEAST-EDWARD

ANNEX C IV (REVISED)

OPTION IV - SUBSTANTIAL ROC ACCESS TO NEW WEAPONS

Would include all items of equipment in Annex C II and III, and in addition:

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CURRENT

Improved follow-up fighter aircraft

could be F-16 or F-18.

All-weather fighter/bomber

could be F-4E, F-14, or F-15.

Improved reconnaissance aircraft

probably RF-4C.

NK 37 torpedos

·for use by submarines.

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P-3 ASW aircraft

P-3 is four-engine, long range and long endurance

aircraft.

Convert selected destroyers to guided missile destroyers

Laser-guided bombs